

# OTSS School Council

Meeting Minutes for May 7, 2013.

## Opening:

The monthly School Council meeting of the OTSS was called to order at 19h10 on May 7, 2013 in the library by Bruce Giles, Co-Chair, School Council.

## Present

Jennifer Tremblay  
Kelli Watson  
Bruce Giles  
Linda Kuo  
Natasha Heston  
Howard Crerar

- **Welcome – Chair**

Bruce welcomed everyone and led the meeting.

Bruce gave a presentation on the Bullying Prevention Program Conference that he attended:

## Bullying Prevention Program:

- Barry Armstrong, Graham Schuler and Bruce Gilles attended the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Conference on Friday May 3
- Bruce Gilles wrote the report on the Conference
- Presentation from Dr. Tracy Vallancourt about the 6 types of bullying (physical, verbal, social, cyber, racial and sexual) and their consequences
- Dr. Vallancourt commented that bullying can lead to poor mental health, over time can lead to poor physical health and can even lead to an early death - this was eye-opening
- Presentation from Dr. Wendy Craig who spoke more about the fact that relationships matter
- Dr. Craig spoke of how complex bullying is and how there is no easy solution. She stressed that it is very difficult for adults to recognize bullying and that the full community approach works best at solving issues. She also stressed that bystanders need to get more involved in reporting and resolving problems of bullying.
- The next 2 sessions were conducted by breaking the large group into 2 smaller groups
- One session discussed how to use the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) data. The surveys are being sent around to all schools in Ontario and results should be available by the next meeting in June.
- The other session discussed the Safe and Accepting Schools Online Toolkit - Ontario's resource site for both parents and schools which is run by Ontario's Institute for Education Leadership
- Finally, with everyone all together again, they attendees looked over the draft copy of the Bullying Prevention and Intervention School level plan. Everyone discussed how the plan could work in their school and it was decided that a lot of what was already being done now could be incorporated in the plan.

- Numerous web-sites were given for everyone to reference –
  - PREVNet: <http://www.prevent.ca>,
  - Ontario's Institute for Education Leadership: <http://live.iel.immix.ca/content/aobut>,
  - Canadian Best Practices Portal: <http://cbpp-pcpe.phac-aspc.gc.ca/>,
  - Ontario Bill 13: [http://ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills\\_detail.co?local=en&BillID=2549](http://ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.co?local=en&BillID=2549)
- **Approval of Agenda and Minutes from April 2, 2012**

Linda motioned to approve the minutes of the last meeting, Natasha seconded.

- **Happenings at OTSS / Staff report**

Jennifer Tremblay

- new principal coming next year - Jane Alexander, Principal at Brookfield H.S.
- staffing – 4 postings – 1 full-time math, 1 full-time hospitality, 1 part-time drama/business, 1 part-time math/science for next year
- Literacy tests went well - the students are confident
- May 1 - approximately 6 of our grads who have been accepted to college, went to Algonquin for "Making the Cut" which is a program introduced to the types of supports that are available to them at post secondary level. For those students who are going to actually attend Algonquin, it is a chance for them to begin to familiarize themselves with the campus - in many cases, it is their first time on the grounds! It was a great day for all. Many thanks to Mrs. Jen Bird for accompanying the students and providing the opportunity.
- May 2 - Challenge Day - a day for students from all grade levels to go offsite and engage in team-building, character-building, and empathy activities. This is the 3rd Challenge Day OTSS has run and it is always incredibly popular. While many staff were involved, thanks to Ms. Angela Linton, Ms. Krista Nibogie and Mr. Chris Jupp for taking the lead on the day.
- Planning is underway for Commencement - always a huge project requiring many hands. Ms. Krista Nibogie is taking the lead this year. Commencement will take place June 28 at 1pm this year. More information to follow.

**Departments**

***Math/Science***

**Science** – Project Wild & Below Zero Introductory Workshop and Learning Network- (Environmental Education) was attended by Mira Waslewski.

This session is a two-day learning network that offers educators the opportunity to experience a sample of the interactive units through the Project WILD & Below ZERO program. This environmental education program encourages participants to explore, observe and experience wildlife and wildlife habitat concepts. Participants will have the opportunity to integrate Project WILD and Below ZERO environmental themes into your learning activities across the curriculum (science, ecology, social studies, language arts, math, art, physical education, and other curriculum areas).

**Math** – The Math Dept will be sending a caring teacher to the ASIST seminar offered by OCDSB to represent our school. The ASIST workshop is for caregivers who want to feel more comfortable, confident and competent in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide.

### ***Co-op***

- all co-op students doing well in their placements
- 6 weeks left in semester so students are working hard to ensure they have their 220 hours and are able to achieve 2 credits
- their summatives will be powerpoint presentations of their placement, as well as information on a career they would like to research which they will present in class
- The Work Experience program in Careers was very successful - students enjoyed a week at a job placement and learned a great deal

### ***Spec Ed Department*** **Storefront**

- Ayla who had obtained a part-time job at Tommy Hilfigger's near Algonquin, has been offered full-time hours beginning the end of June! Huge accomplishment!!!
- Peter was doing his Co-op placement at Fresh Co. (on MacArthur) and it has turned into a part-time paid job! Awesome!!!!
- Scott is volunteering at the Food Bank 3 days a week. This has been his most successful placement EVER! He is able to sort the food, assist other volunteers with categorizing the food items, sweep the floor, make and tape new boxes and assist where needed. This placement has been terrific for him, in that he has gained self-confidence, feels good about himself, feels like he's contributing to the community.
- Storefront's end of the year trip to Montreal was approved. The students and staff are looking forward to the 2 day/1 night trip the end of May.
- Nancy and Gregor Allan are presenters (topic - Recruiting and Engaging Unique Volunteers) to the Ontario Association of Food Banks Annual Conference on Mon. June 3rd. The conference is being held at Albert and Bay Suite Hotel.

### **GLP**

- Mrs. Gaunt's class have had 2 successful local social trips - to a local diner for breakfast, and on OC Transpo to a restaurant for lunch.
- May 23 will be the Grade 8 Tour for new students coming to OTSS in September.

### **BIP**

- Kudos to Jessie who is excelling at Swiss Chalet for his CO-OP placement.

### **Autism**

- 3 of the soon-to-graduate students have successfully transitioned into a post-21 program (SCEL), based at the Hintonburg Community Centre.
- One will also be hired by Dovercourt Community Centre for Internal Marketing (Ben), another for creating a manual (Ken) and a third will be working on a website for Legend Records (Jimmy).

- May - looking ahead, to the Gloucester Fair on May 22nd, and to a talent show at Glebe Collegiate Institute on May 31, where Mr. Brown and several students will be participating with a musical piece. All students will be travelling to see the performance.

### ***Happenings in the Arts***

- Drama, Visual Arts & Music classes enjoyed a trip to the Museum of Civilization on Apr. 18th where they will be treated to a multi-media, multi-theme musical show celebrating Canada's. Attendees were "blown away" by the variety of performers, music themes & acting.
- The very next day, Apr. 19th, The Arts was once again profiled through our annual, "OTSS Has Talent" show. From 30 different acts, 15 were chosen, & competed for coveted titles in 3 categories; instrumental, vocal & performance. Staff judges provide compliments & constructive feedback, as well as, rated each of the performances on route to determining the winners. However, it was the audience who, through a clap off method, decided the 'Best Overall Performers'. Kudos to all the student performers who demonstrated the courage to audition &/or perform on stage. Collectively the talent was amazing & entertaining.

### ***Mustang Report***

#### ***Spring Vocom Sports***

- **Boys & Girls Ball Hockey** took place on April 16th with both schools hosting gender based tournaments on the same day. Between the 2 schools there were over 70 students involved !
- Starting up is **Co-ed Track & Field**, for the 1st time ever, it will take place @ Terry Fox Athletic Complex on Fri. May 17th, with many throwing, running & jumping events. The students will be competing where many accomplished athletes before them have set records.
- We conclude this year's Vocom Sports with **Co-ed Softball** on May 29th

#### ***Varsity Sports***

- Highly competitive Varsity Track & Field is underway with approx. 20 students committed to the vigorous training schedule involved. Qualifying meets start on May 15, City Championships May 22nd, followed by Regional May 30th. This is a tier 1 sport, open to all every level of ability & all schools. Despite the talented field of competitors our school has a history of success in this sport

#### ***Health and Physical Education News***

- Own a bike or have access to a bike but no helmet? A newly announced initiative of the Education Foundation of Ottawa & their partners have launched, "A Helmet For Every Student", initiative with opportunities for students to receive a new brand name cycling helmet for little to no cost. More information will be announced in the near future but interested students/families should contact Mr. Lockwood to take advantage of this opportunity.
- As a result of a fundraising effort by a staff member, who wishes to remain anonymous, 4 more Life cycle brand stationary bikes were recently added to the

school fitness center & are already being enjoyed by students & staff. In the near future this equipment will be joined by a new commercial treadmill that expands the choice students have for improving their aerobic fitness.

- April 8th - students will have the pleasure of attending a IIHF Women's World Hockey Championship game at Scotiabank Place. Tickets were free and the school absorbed the cost of the bus, so the students could go for free. The featured game is for 5th place.

### ***English/Social Studies***

- 90 students completed the grade 10 literacy test from the Ministry - OSSLT - on April 11
- with support of numerous staff the day went without a hitch
- students generally felt very confident in their effort – results to come in June
- CGC1P Geography classes have just completed the culminating activity of the mapping unit. Each student was responsible for creating their own "OTSS Island" which had to incorporate key mapping ideas such as: scale; contour; elevation; and legend. This led to the creation of a few very interesting islands.

### ***Tech***

- Tech Showcase held at Confederation H.S. - students from Cosmetology, Baking and Masonry demonstrated their skills to Grade 7 students
- Paint for Life – Cosmetology students held a manicure day and raised \$1565 for cancer research
- Green Industries – students created centerpieces for Mission Employable at Confederation H.S. Students attending loved the WOW factor - fish!
- Green Industries – students received Skid Steer training and will all receive a certificate
- May 1-5 -Students went to "Algonquin Connections" to explore the programs being offered at the college
- May 3 – OTSS hosted a "Mini Skills Camp" for 13 grade 8 students from Queen Elizabeth Elementary. Our students in Welding, Cosmetology, Woodworking and Baking mentored the grade 8's through a full class of production. Lunch was held in the Courtyard
- 10 students went to "Constructour" at Algonquin and PCL construction on May 3rd
- May 6-8 – Quinton Sabourin (Auto Service) and Dylan Stuckless (Masonry) are representing OTSS again this year at the Skills Canada competition in Waterloo
- more certification for students will be occurring this month
  
- **Any other business**
- Pro Grant was discussed and it was voted on the proceed with the order for the bumper stickers
- cling stickers were too expensive per unit

- **Adjournment**

Howard motioned for the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 – Linda seconded. Next meeting to be held on June 4th.

Minutes submitted by Annette Vogt-Cearns